

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01

IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /134 W

----- 082001

O R 061804Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0252

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02030

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, ER, GE, GW, UR, US, UK, WB, FR

SUBJECT: FRG PRESS CONFERENCE ON RECENT TRANSIT  
DIFFICULTIES

1. AT FEB 6 PRESS CONFERENCE, FRG SPOKESMAN VON  
WECHMAR READ OUT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS ON THE  
TRANSIT ROUTES FROM AND TO BERLIN WITH ALL NECESSARY  
ATTENTION. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC HAS ALREADY CALLED  
ATTENTION TO THE POSITION OF THE GDR WHICH IS COUNTER  
TO THE (TRANSIT) TREATY. AND THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT  
HAS OFTEN VIGOROUSLY MADE REFERENCE TO THE  
CONSEQUENCES WHICH WOULD FOLLOW AN UNDER-  
MINING OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT -- FOR EXAMPLE, BY STATE  
SECRETARY GAUS IN EAST BERLIN. AT THE SAME TIME THE  
THREE WESTERN POWERS HAVE, IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, MADE SURE THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS  
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REMINDED OF THE MEANING OF STRICT ADHERENCE OF THE

TRANSIT AGREEMENT. FEDERAL MINISTER BAHR DISCUSSED THIS POINT A FEW DAYS AGO WITH THE AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND (THE LATTER) RELAYED THE SAME VIEW TO THE SOVIET MINISTRY. SO, SINCE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOT NEGLECTED ANYTHING AND WILL NOT NEGLECT TO PROTEST TO THE GDR VIGOROUSLY AGAINST A POSITION CONTRARY TO THE TREATY, IT MUST ON THE OTHER HAND EXPECT THAT INCIDENTS ALONG THE TRANSIT ROUTES NOT BE MADE THE SUBJECT OF PETTY POLITICAL POLEMICS. UNFOUNDED PROPAGANDA HURTS PEOPLE WHO USE THE TRANSIT ROUTES AND ONLY MAKES MORE DIFFICULT THE TASKS OF OUR ALLIES. THE COMMON VIEW OF THE THREE WESTERN POWERS AND OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE FOR THE OPPOSITION. IN GENERAL, THE GOVERNMENT IS READY TO GIVE ANY INFORMATION IN PARLIAMENT AND THE OPPOSITION MUST ASK ITSELF WHY IT WANTED TO GIVE THE GOVERNMENT ITS FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE INFORMATION IN THE (BUNDESTAG) INNER-GERMAN COMMITTEE IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK."

2. IN THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWING HIS STATEMENT, THE FRG SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO SPECIFY WHICH EVENTS HE HAD IN MIND WHICH MIGHT FOLLOW AN UNDERMINING OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT. HE SAID SUCH MATTERS WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES. HE SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS EXAMINING ALL INCIDENTS ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES AND WOULD NOT HESITATE "TO CALL A SPADE A SPADE". VON WECHMAR SAID THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC KNEW THE TEXT OF THE NOTE THE THREE WESTERN POWERS HAD SENT TO THE SOVIET UNION (ON JAN 29), AND HAD CONCURRED IN IT. VON WECHMAR DESCRIBED THIS NOTE AS A WARNING. HE SAID IT WAS A QUESTION OF "PROPHYLACTIC WARNINGS" AND THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF HIS

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TALK WITH HIS SOVIET COLLEAGUE TO MAKE THESE POINTS.  
THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE COMPLETE AGREEMENT OF  
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND THE THREE WESTERN POWERS IN  
THIS QUESTION, THE SPEAKER ADDED.

3. VON WECHMAR CONFIRMED ADDITIONALLY THAT TWO  
OFFICIAL CONTACTS OF THE THREE WESTERN POWERS WITH THE  
SOVIET UNION HAD TAKEN PLACE; ONE OCCASION WAS THAT  
OF THE DELIVERY OF THE NOTE REFERRED TO ABOVE AND THE  
SECOND WAS THE CONVERSATION OF KISSINGER WITH GROMYKO,  
AND FURTHERMORE, HE SAID, THERE WERE SEVERAL OTHER  
CONTACTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, A WESTERN AMBASSADOR IN  
BONN HAD SPOKEN WITH HIS SOVIET COLLEAGUE A FEW DAYS  
AGO, ALTHOUGH THIS CONTACT SHOULD NOT BE DESCRIBED AS  
OFFICIAL. VON WECHMAR SAID THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC  
HAD GOTTEN INFORMATION ON THE KISSINGER-GROMYKO CONVER-  
SATION AND THAT IN A PRELIMINARY BAHR-KISSINGER CONVER-  
SATION IT WAS FOUND THE TWO MEN WERE OF THE SAME VIEW;  
ALSO IT DEVELOPED IN THE BAHR-KISSINGER CONVERSATION  
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THAT THE AMERICAN VIEW CORRESPONDED TO THAT OF THE UK  
AND FRANCE. TO THE QUESTION OF A PROPOSAL FOR CONSUL-  
TATIONS BETWEEN THE THREE WESTERN POWERS AND THE SOVIET  
UNION VON WECHMAR SAID THAT THE THREE POWERS WOULD NOT  
TAKE ANY STEPS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE FRG.  
THE BONN GROUP WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THIS ALSO.  
HILLENBRAND

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